

National Cannery Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information
Letter



For N. C. A.
Members

Membership Letter No. 8.

March 31, 1923.

Section Meetings at Milwaukee to Be Well Attended.

There will be a representative attendance at the Pea and Corn Section meetings of the National Cannery Association at Milwaukee, Wednesday, April 11. In addition to Hon. C.S. McGillivray, of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, there will be present Dr. F.C. Blanck, a member of the Committee on Definitions and Standards of the United States Department of Agriculture. Attending the sessions also will be President Anderson of the National Cannery Association, who will be one of the principal speakers at the Western Cannery meeting.

Since the last writing there have been additional entries to the canned foods exhibit. In fact, there is every indication that the attendance at this early spring meeting will be one of the largest in many years.

Cannery President to Address National Wholesale Grocers.

An invitation has been extended to President Anderson to address the Annual Convention of the National Wholesale Grocers Association. It is to be held this year in St. Louis, and it convenes Wednesday, May 16.

Immediately thereafter Mr. Anderson will proceed to Washington, where, on Tuesday, May 22, he will attend a meeting of the Finance and Executive Committees of the National Cannery Association, and, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 23 and 24, meetings of the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and the Vice Presidents. These sessions will be held in the Washington office of the Association.

Raw Products Expert Talks to Pineapple Growers.

Dr. C.G. Woodbury, Director of the National Cannery Association Raw Products Research Bureau, was one of the principal speakers at Honolulu recently, at the University of Hawaii's annual short course in pineapple production and canning. Pineapple men were assembled from all the nearby islands, and the course was held under the auspices of the University and the Association of Hawaiian Pineapple Growers.

Writing from Hawaii, Doctor Woodbury said:

"While visiting the pineapple fields of the Kauai Fruit and Land

Company, Limited, on the Island of Kauai, with Bert Tarleton, last Saturday, March 3, we stopped at the little general store at Kalaheo, and found a Canned Foods Week window streamer conspicuously displayed. The store is kept by a native Hawaiian, and is a long way from Washington, D.C., but Canned Foods Week means something, even in the islands of the Pacific."

Manufacturer May Use Discretion in Selling Terms.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has just reversed the Federal Trade Commission order forbidding the Mennen Company to adopt any system of discounts upon a basis of a classification of its customers as jobbers, wholesalers, retailers, or any similar class that relates to the customers' form of organization, business policy, or business methods.

In its decision, the Court stated that the Company is engaged in an entirely private business and has a right freely to exercise its own intelligent discretion as to whether it sells to wholesalers only or to both wholesalers and retailers and if it decides to sell to both it has a right to determine whether or not it will sell to the retailer on the same terms it sells to the wholesaler.

Canned Spinach Blamed for Coal Gas Poisoning.

Widespread newspaper publicity was recently given to a report of an outbreak of illness in a family near New York City, attributed to canned spinach. Through the cooperative arrangement of the National Cannery Association with the United States Public Health Service and Chicago University, we were able to have this report investigated very promptly and fully, in cooperation with the local health officials.

As a result of this investigation, evidence was conclusive that the illness in every case was due to carbon-monoxide or coal gas poisoning, caused by the use of a defective stove in a small apartment. The case was certainly not one of food poisoning.

Canned Corn Also Gets It.

Several members of a family in the middle west became ill with typical symptoms of food poisoning, and considerable newspaper publicity was given to the case, the trouble being attributed to canned corn.

Upon investigation of the report by this Association it was found that neither the members of the family nor the attending physicians attributed the illness to canned corn and the evidence secured in the case indicates that the corn was wholesome and in no way responsible. The trouble appears to have been due to ice cream of local manufacture.

Appreciation Expressed for Food Investigation Work.

We are endeavoring to secure corrected statements from the newspapers concerned, in both the spinach and corn cases. These are very striking illustrations of this branch of Association work, and canners will doubtless appreciate the inestimable value of the cooperative arrangement which we have been able to make with scientists of the highest standing in the investigation of these cases.

In this connection it is interesting to note the following letter of appreciation received by the Association from a prominent New York wholesale grocer:

"Have your favors of the 22nd and 23rd and wish to express our thanks to you and compliment the Association on their prompt action and quick work on the spinach poisoning case reported from Yonkers. The matter was certainly handled with speed and efficiency."

Unprecedented Freight Traffic Reported.

According to a bulletin issued by the American Railway Association, the record breaking freight movement for this time of year continues, exceeding previous years by a wide margin. Loading of revenue freight during the week which ended on March 10 amounted to 905,219 cars. This exceeded the corresponding week last year by 84,333 cars, and the corresponding week in 1921 by 204,779 cars. This also was greatly in excess of the corresponding weeks in 1918, 1919, and 1920.

Commerce Department Studies Better Export Packing.

A memorandum from the Department of Commerce indicates that the Department has begun a special study to bring about better methods of packing products for export. These investigations will be under the supervision of Mr. J.F. Keely of the Transportation Division, and considerable progress has already been made. Presumably the packing of food products will be taken up for investigation in due course.

"Box and crate construction, proper nailing, the use of box strapping, the employment of anti-pilferage devices, and careful interior packing, all these will be thoroughly studied and compared with scientific data compiled by the Forest Products Laboratory, the American Society for Testing Materials, the Bureau of Standards, and similar bodies throughout the country. The results when published will be valuable to newcomers in exporting and should do much to foster and maintain a national sentiment for excellence in export practice."

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New York ~~Times~~ Tribune

Printed at the New York Times Building

March 23, 1923.

THE TRUTH

**"—is also found in frank
confession of error"**

*The Tribune will be glad to receive
and publish corrections of inaccuracies in its columns.*

In its issue of Saturday, March 3, The Tribune attributed the illness of a Coney Island family to "canned split pea soup." Frank E. Gorrell, secretary of the National Canners Association, writes to say that their investigation shows that the soup was not made from canned peas, but was "prepared from loose, dried peas, which had been standing around for a day or so in the house." Police reports confirm this investigation.

In the issue of The Tribune for February 20 a recent fire at the German Home for Recreation for Women and Children at Gravesend Bay was attributed to "defective electric wiring."

The Fire Marshal's office, at Fire Headquarters, Brooklyn, now says that the fire was not due to any electric equipment, but was caused by a defective chimney flue.

HAMMER
BONE